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DECEMBER 10, 1958

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FROM: PARIS

TO: Secretary of State

NO: POLTO 1631, DECEMBER 10, 8 PM

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT POLTO 1631, REPEATED INFORMATION BONN POLTO 281, LONDON POLTO 444.

WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING WITH EMBASSY, US ELEMENT SHAPE, AND AMONG OURSELVES POSSIBLE FORMULATIONS OF A NATO POSITION CONCERNING BERLIN. RAY THURSTON HAS COME UP WITH FOLLOWING BRIEF FORMULATION WHICH STRIKES US AS EXCELLENT, AND COULD POSSIBLY SERVE AS CORE OF NATO COMMUNIQUE ON THIS SUBJECT:

"THE WESTERN POSITION IN BERLIN IS NOT ONLY A SYMBOL BUT ALSO A CONCRETE ASSURANCE THAT THE WEST WILL PERSIST IN ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A PEACEFUL AND JUST SETTLEMENT OF THE ENTIRE GERMAN QUESTION. UNTIL PROGRESS IS MADE TOWARD THIS OBJECTIVE, UNILATERAL EFFORTS TO CHANGE THE SITUATION IN BERLIN CAN ONLY BE REGARDED AS PREJUDICIAL TO THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF EUROPE AND, THEREFORE, CANNOT BE ACCEPTED."

WE THINK A FORMULATION OF THIS KIND COULD BE A STANDARD TO WHICH ALL NATO COUNTRIES COULD REPAIR WHILE DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE ON DESIRABILITY OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER OF INITIATIVE ON GERMAN PROBLEM. BELIEVE ALSO THIS KIND OF FORMULATION, IF STATED EARLY IN DISCUSSION, WOULD TEND TO PULL TOGETHER VARIOUS DIFFERENCES OF EMPHASIS AND NUANCES AMONG NATO COUNTRIES WHICH COULD, IN COURSE OF EXPECTED LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS, GET OUT OF PROPORTION. HOUGHTON AND NORSTAD CONCUR.

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